

VZCZCXRO0333
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DE RUEHKT #1982 2061213
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2485
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4605
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4859
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9976
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2848
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4255
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0028
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU PRIORITY 0300
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001982

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/25/2016
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PGOV](#) [NP](#)
SUBJECT: TIBETAN REFUGEE UPDATE: JULY 25

REF: KATHMANDU 1796

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Tibetans Continue To Transit To India

¶1. (C) Douglas DiSalvo, Associate Protection Officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Nepal (UNHCR), told Emboff that the 16 Tibetans who were the subject of PRC pressure in early July (reftel) left Nepal on July 24 and arrived in India on July 25. The Government of Nepal (GON) issued exit permits for all 16 Tibetans.

Tibetans Arrested As They Cross The Border

¶2. (C) The GON arrested 22 Tibetans on immigration violations on July 21, after they crossed the border into Nepal at Lamabagar in eastern Nepal. According to UNHCR, the 22 Tibetans were being held in the central jail in Kathmandu. DiSalvo said that all 22 Tibetans were charged with being present in Nepal without documentation and were fined 100 USD each. He added that until the fines were paid, they could be held for up to ten months. DiSalvo told us that most of the time, these fines are paid by private individuals and then the Tibetan is handed over to UNHCR for processing. UNHCR planned to interview the 22 Tibetans and to assist them to move to the Tibetan Relocation Center (TRC) as soon as possible. DiSalvo opined that the arrests were standard operating procedure for the Nepal Police and not the result of added pressure by the PRC on the GON to arrest Tibetans.

Not Many At The TRC

¶3. (C) According to DiSalvo, as of July 25 the number of Tibetans at the TRC was 13. DiSalvo expected that numbers would begin to rise again in September (when numbers have historically risen following the end of the monsoon season), but said that numbers have remained low because the GON has been issuing exit permits to all transiting Tibetans.
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